

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#3/A

Applicants : Helmut Gross et al.

For : DEVICE FOR DIE CUTTING A STACK CONSISTING OF
SHEET-TYPE MATERIALS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Before examination, please amend the specification and claims as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The device design cited ensures that the die-cutter blade, as held in the frame and placed into the device, can be oriented in defined fashion relative to the punching ram directed toward the stack, particularly in a plane perpendicular to the relative direction of motion of the punching ram and the die-cutter blade, in each case with respect to both translational and rotational aspects.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 32, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The frame portion and the primary clamping beam are thus charged with accommodating the clamping elements for fixation of the die-cutter blade. These clamping elements, which are, in particular, formed as clamping shoes, fix the die-cutter blade on sides of the die-cutter blade facing away from one another, such that the clamping elements of the primary clamping beam, under the influence of the clamping agents of the secondary clamping beam, press the die-cutter blade into the clamping elements of the frame. Once the clamping elements for the die-cutter blade have been brought largely into position and pre-tensioned, and the slideably frame-mounted primary clamping beam is also held relatively firmly – however so that it can still be slid – within the frame, the similarly slideable secondary clamping beam is positioned near the primary clamping beam and firmly tightened. By adjusting the